

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2518

S E C R E T BONN 07734

EXDIS

PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE STOP-OVER IN BONN

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ACTING CHANCELLOR SCHEEL TODAY (REPORTED IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM), HE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE STOP-OVER BY YOU IN BONN EN ROUTE BACK TO THE U.S. FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. AFTER REFERRING TO YOUR PREVIOUS COMMUNICATION IN WHICH YOU HAD MENTIONED MAY 10 AS A POSSIBLE DATE (OBVIOUSLY NOW FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE), HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT YOUR EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SUBSEQUENT WASHINGTON SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT A BRIEF STOP-OVER IN BONN EITHER ON SATURDAY, MAY 18 OR SUNDAY, MAY 19. COMING JUST AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, SUCH A VISIT, NO MATTER HOW BRIEF, WOULD HAVE A HIGHLY DESIRABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

2. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER THE PROSPECTIVE NEW CHANCELLOR'S SCHEDULE WOULD KEEP HIM IN BONN OVER THE WEEKEND, SCHEEL

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IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP THE TELEPHONE AND SPOKE TO HELMUT

SCHMIDT WHO CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY WELCOME SUCH A STOP-OVER AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR A CONVERSATION EITHER ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BETWEEN 10:00 AND 12 NOON ON SATURDAY.

3. THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN BONN THIS WEEK, WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY TIE UP GOVERNMENT LEADERS UNTIL SATURDAY, IS:

MAY 15 - MEETING OF THE BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG TO ELECT THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT

MAY 16 - ELECTION OF THE NEW CHANCELLOR BY THE BUNDESTAG

MAY 17 - SWEARING IN OF THE NEW CABINET, PROGRAMMATIC SPEECH BY THE NEW CHANCELLOR TO THE BUNDESTAG, FOLLOWED BY DEBATE

4. SCHMIDT CONFIRMED TO SCHEEL THAT HE STILL INTENDS TO VISIT MOSCOW IN LATE JULY IN FULFILLMENT OF BRANDT'S INTENTION TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV. SCHEEL ADDED THAT, IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT THIS TIME, HE HOPED THAT YOUR PLANS TO BE IN THE FRG EARLY IN JULY WOULD PERMIT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TALKS WITH SCHMIDT BEFORE HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT FOR THE NEW CHANCELLOR TO VISIT WASHINGTON DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE ENTIRELY EXCLUDED.

5. ALTHOUGH SCHEEL AND SCHMIDT ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE UNCERTAINTIES OF YOUR OWN SCHEDULE IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY WOULD APPRECIATE SOME EARLY INDICATION OF YOUR INTENTIONS WHEN YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE TIMING OF YOUR RETURN TRIP.
HILLENBRAND

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